

AMSCO AP United States History Exam (APUSH) - Period 5 Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. What economic downturn was experienced in the United States in the early 1870s, largely due to over-speculation and poor fiscal policy?**
 - A. Panic of 1873**
 - B. Great Depression**
 - C. Recession of 1893**
 - D. Panic of 1837**
- 2. Which President attempted to balance pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions but ultimately failed?**
 - A. James Buchanan**
 - B. Andrew Johnson**
 - C. Martin Van Buren**
 - D. Calvin Coolidge**
- 3. What treaty ended the Mexican War and resulted in significant land acquisitions for the U.S.?**
 - A. Treaty of Paris**
 - B. Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo**
 - C. Treaty of Fort Laramie**
 - D. Treaty of Versailles**
- 4. What method used by Union forces included destroying civilian infrastructure and resources during the Civil War?**
 - A. Strategic Bombing**
 - B. Counter-Insurgency**
 - C. Total War**
 - D. Naval Blockade**
- 5. What was a consequence of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law?**
 - A. It eliminated the need for the Underground Railroad**
 - B. It mandated harsher punishments for runaway slaves**
 - C. It led to the formation of the Republican Party**
 - D. It encouraged further abolitionist sentiments in the North**

- 6. The Compromise of 1850 sought to address tensions between which two groups?**
- A. Pro-slavery and Anti-slavery factions**
 - B. Immigrants and Nativists**
 - C. Unionists and Confederates**
 - D. Federalists and Anti-Federalists**
- 7. What does the 14th Amendment guarantee to all persons born in the U.S.?**
- A. Right to vote regardless of race**
 - B. Citizenship and equal protection of the laws**
 - C. Freedom of speech and assembly**
 - D. Protection from unlawful detention**
- 8. What derogatory term was used for white Southerners who supported Reconstruction?**
- A. Yankees**
 - B. Carpetbaggers**
 - C. Scalawags**
 - D. Radicals**
- 9. What was the aim of the Crittenden Compromise offered by Senator Crittenden?**
- A. To abolish slavery in all territories**
 - B. To recognize slavery in territories south of the 36°30' line**
 - C. To grant voting rights to all former slaves**
 - D. To increase tariffs on Southern goods**
- 10. Which event is considered as the first conflict that marked the start of the Civil War?**
- A. Battle of Bull Run**
 - B. Attack on Fort Sumter**
 - C. Battle of Gettysburg**
 - D. Siege of Vicksburg**

Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What economic downturn was experienced in the United States in the early 1870s, largely due to over-speculation and poor fiscal policy?

A. Panic of 1873

B. Great Depression

C. Recession of 1893

D. Panic of 1837

The Panic of 1873 was an economic downturn that significantly impacted the United States, stemming from a combination of over-speculation, particularly in railroads, and poor fiscal policies that resulted in a loss of confidence in the financial system. The era leading up to this panic saw a rapid expansion of railroads, fueled by inflated investments and loans. When the market for these investments faltered, it triggered a banking crisis, leading to bank failures and a subsequent economic depression that lasted several years. In the aftermath of the Panic of 1873, significant deflation and high unemployment ensued, marking a turning point in the post-Civil War economy. The severity of this panic and its aftermath had lasting effects, influencing both economic policies and societal attitudes towards business practices in America. The other options represent different economic challenges in U.S. history. The Great Depression, which began in 1929, was much later and resulted from different causes, such as the stock market crash and widespread bank failures. The Recession of 1893 was another economic downturn but had distinct triggers, primarily linked to unstable economic practices and overexpansion in the railroads and industries of the 1880s. The Panic of 1837, much earlier, was

2. Which President attempted to balance pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions but ultimately failed?

A. James Buchanan

B. Andrew Johnson

C. Martin Van Buren

D. Calvin Coolidge

James Buchanan is the President who attempted to balance pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions but ultimately failed. During his administration from 1857 to 1861, Buchanan faced the increasing tensions leading up to the Civil War. He believed in the principles of popular sovereignty, which allowed the people in the territories to decide for themselves whether to allow slavery. However, his support for the pro-slavery Lecompton Constitution in Kansas, despite widespread opposition, alienated many anti-slavery supporters and did not resolve the division within the nation. His efforts to maintain peace and unity through compromise only intensified existing conflicts, making his presidency notably ineffective in addressing the growing sectional divide. This failure to navigate the complex political landscape contributed significantly to the tensions that erupted into the Civil War shortly after he left office.

3. What treaty ended the Mexican War and resulted in significant land acquisitions for the U.S.?

- A. Treaty of Paris
- B. Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo**
- C. Treaty of Fort Laramie
- D. Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, signed in 1848, officially ended the Mexican-American War and led to substantial territorial gains for the United States. Under its terms, Mexico ceded approximately half of its territory, including present-day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and parts of Colorado and New Mexico, to the U.S. This acquisition significantly expanded the size of the nation and was a pivotal moment in the country's westward expansion and the fulfillment of Manifest Destiny. This treaty not only reshaped the physical landscape of the United States but also had lasting implications for the demographic, economic, and political development of the region. The land gained was crucial for future settlement, resource extraction, and ultimately contributed to tensions over slavery as the nation grappled with the question of whether new states admitted from these territories would be free or slave states. The significance of this treaty thereby extends beyond mere territorial gain; it is intertwined with the broader narrative of American expansionism and its complexities.

4. What method used by Union forces included destroying civilian infrastructure and resources during the Civil War?

- A. Strategic Bombing
- B. Counter-Insurgency
- C. Total War**
- D. Naval Blockade

The method used by Union forces that involved destroying civilian infrastructure and resources during the Civil War is known as Total War. This military strategy aimed to undermine the enemy's will to fight by targeting not only their military capabilities but also the economic resources and the civilian population that supported the war effort. A notable example of this approach was General William Tecumseh Sherman's March to the Sea, where his army systematically destroyed railroads, crops, and other supplies essential for sustaining the Confederate war effort. Total War effectively blurs the lines between combatants and civilians, as it seeks to eliminate the means by which an enemy can sustain its military operations. This strategy was employed by Union forces to demoralize Southern civilians and hasten the end of the conflict by demonstrating the Union's overwhelming power and resolve. The destruction of infrastructure was seen as a way to pressure the Confederacy into surrendering more quickly, thus shortening the war and saving lives in the long term.

5. What was a consequence of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law?

- A. It eliminated the need for the Underground Railroad**
- B. It mandated harsher punishments for runaway slaves**
- C. It led to the formation of the Republican Party**
- D. It encouraged further abolitionist sentiments in the North**

The 1850 Fugitive Slave Law was part of the Compromise of 1850 and had significant implications for both the institution of slavery and the broader social and political landscape in the United States. One of its primary consequences was the imposition of stricter penalties on those who aided runaway slaves as well as on the fugitives themselves. This law mandated that individuals found to be assisting runaway slaves could be fined or imprisoned, which can be understood as harsher punishments designed to deter people from aiding those seeking freedom. Moreover, the law required that escaped slaves be returned to their owners without consideration of their claims for freedom. This effectively reinforced the institution of slavery by providing legal protections for slaveholders and criminalizing those who supported the runaway slaves. Consequently, the law not only contributed to the enforcement of existing fugitive slave policies but also heightened tensions between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions, especially in the Northern states, where many people opposed the law on moral grounds. This increased hostility further fueled abolitionist movements in the North.

6. The Compromise of 1850 sought to address tensions between which two groups?

- A. Pro-slavery and Anti-slavery factions**
- B. Immigrants and Nativists**
- C. Unionists and Confederates**
- D. Federalists and Anti-Federalists**

The Compromise of 1850 aimed to address the escalating tensions between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions in the United States, particularly in the context of expanding territories acquired from the Mexican-American War. As the nation grappled with the question of whether to permit slavery in these new territories, both sides found themselves increasingly entrenched in their positions. The Compromise included a series of measures designed to balance the interests of both factions: it admitted California as a free state, which favored the anti-slavery side, while implementing a tougher Fugitive Slave Law to appease pro-slavery advocates. Additionally, it allowed for popular sovereignty in Utah and New Mexico, enabling the residents of those territories to decide the issue of slavery themselves. This delicate arrangement was a significant attempt to maintain the Union and stave off conflict at that moment, highlighting the deep divisions that existed over slavery. The other groups listed, such as immigrants and nativists, Unionists and Confederates, and Federalists and Anti-Federalists, were not the primary focus of the compromise, making it clear that the key contention during this period was indeed between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions.

7. What does the 14th Amendment guarantee to all persons born in the U.S.?

- A. Right to vote regardless of race**
- B. Citizenship and equal protection of the laws**
- C. Freedom of speech and assembly**
- D. Protection from unlawful detention**

The correct response highlights that the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees citizenship and equal protection of the laws to all persons born in the U.S. This amendment was ratified in 1868 in the aftermath of the Civil War, primarily aimed at ensuring that newly freed slaves received the same rights and protections as other citizens. The first clause of the 14th Amendment establishes birthright citizenship, meaning anyone born in the U.S. automatically qualifies as a citizen. This principle was crucial in defining national citizenship and overriding state laws that might deny citizenship to individuals based on race or previous status as enslaved people. The second part of the amendment asserts that no state can deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws, which has been foundational in the development of civil rights law. This clause has been pivotal in various Supreme Court cases that addressed issues of equality and civil rights for marginalized groups. Other options do not represent guarantees provided by the 14th Amendment. The right to vote, for example, is addressed in later amendments but is not directly stated in the 14th. Freedom of speech and assembly is primarily protected under the First Amendment. Protection from unlawful detention relates more closely to legal rights under the Fifth and Sixth Amend

8. What derogatory term was used for white Southerners who supported Reconstruction?

- A. Yankees**
- B. Carpetbaggers**
- C. Scalawags**
- D. Radicals**

The term "Scalawags" was used derisively to refer to white Southerners who supported Reconstruction after the Civil War. This label was particularly aimed at those who aligned themselves with the Republican Party and helped implement Reconstruction policies, which aimed to rebuild the South and integrate freed African Americans into society as full citizens. Scalawags were often seen as traitors by their fellow Southerners who opposed Reconstruction, as they supported measures that were viewed as Northern impositions. This opposition stemmed from a desire to maintain the pre-war social and economic order, which included the subjugation of African Americans. While "Yankees" typically referred to people from the North, particularly soldiers or supporters of the Union, and "Carpetbaggers" described Northerners who moved to the South post-war for economic or political gain, both terms reflect different aspects of the regional tensions during Reconstruction. "Radicals" refers to more extreme members of the Republican Party who pushed for more aggressive policies, especially those advocating for civil rights for African Americans, rather than Southern supporters of these reforms themselves. Thus, the derogatory term most accurately describing white Southern supporters of Reconstruction is "Scalawags."

9. What was the aim of the Crittenden Compromise offered by Senator Crittenden?

- A. To abolish slavery in all territories**
- B. To recognize slavery in territories south of the 36°30' line**
- C. To grant voting rights to all former slaves**
- D. To increase tariffs on Southern goods**

The Crittenden Compromise aimed to resolve the growing sectional conflict over slavery in the United States prior to the Civil War. It was proposed by Senator John J. Crittenden in late 1860 and sought to prevent Southern states from seceding from the Union. The key component of this compromise was the proposal to extend the Missouri Compromise line of 36°30' westward, thereby allowing slavery to be recognized and protected in all territories south of that line. This approach was intended to appease Southern states and maintain the Union by creating a clear demarcation that would secure their interests regarding slavery. The premise was that by giving legal protections to slavery in the territories south of the line, the Crittenden Compromise could avert the immediate crisis over slavery and prevent the fracture of the nation. Thus, the proposal fundamentally aimed to balance the interests of slaveholding states with those of free states at a time of significant national tension over this issue.

10. Which event is considered as the first conflict that marked the start of the Civil War?

- A. Battle of Bull Run**
- B. Attack on Fort Sumter**
- C. Battle of Gettysburg**
- D. Siege of Vicksburg**

The attack on Fort Sumter is considered the first conflict that marked the start of the Civil War because it was the initial military engagement between the Union and Confederate forces. On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops fired upon Fort Sumter, a Union stronghold located in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. This attack prompted President Abraham Lincoln to call for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion, effectively establishing the war's commencement. The significance of this event lies in its role as the catalyst that transformed the political tensions between the North and South into an armed conflict, serving as a clear signal that negotiation and compromise were no longer viable solutions to their differences. The other events listed, such as the Battle of Bull Run, Battle of Gettysburg, and Siege of Vicksburg, occurred later in the war and represented significant battles rather than the initial outbreak of hostilities.